

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Prior to this Amendment, Claims 1-2 and 4-11 were pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5-9 being independent. It is gratefully acknowledged that independent Claims 6-9 remain allowed.

The Examiner rejected Claims 5 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No.6,128,012 to Seidensticker, Jr. et al. (hereinafter *Seidensticker*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,758,295 to Ahlberg et al. (hereinafter *Ahlberg*). The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No.6,161,026 to *Uchida* in view of U.S. Pat. No.6,125,287 to Cushman et al. (hereinafter *Cushman*) and further in view of *Ahlberg*.

Please cancel Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 10-11, without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 6-9 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the aforementioned rejections is rendered moot, in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 10-11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Art Unit: 2618
Application No.: 09/775,529

PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket: 678-562 (P9449)

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 6-9, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. M. Owens III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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